1398 July 21. 1755.

THE

LIBELLER LASHED,

OR

Fair Warning to the NOBILITY and GENTRY

OF

IRELAND,

Printed in the Year, MDCCLV.

THE LIBELLER LASHED,

OR

A Fair Warning to the NOBILITY and GENTRY

OF

IRELAND.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Printed in the Year, MDCCLV.

THE LIBELLER LASHED,

OR,

Fair Warning, &c.

Friends, and Fellow Countrymen,

I HAVE been endeavouring in the Courſe of theſe Letters to remove Prejudices that have been artfully thrown in your Way, that you might ſee clearly, judge impartially, and act honeſtly. How far I have ſucceeded, I know not; but this I know, that there never was a Time within yours, or the Memory of any Man living, when this was more neceſſary than at preſent. The Situation we are in, I have formerly hinted is, critical and dangerous; the Danger is now evidently every Day increaſing, from the Endeavours of evil Spirits to deceive and pervert you.

After two or three ſuch Alarums as have been lately ſounded to raiſe you to SEDITION, the Subject is grown very ſerious, and muſt rouze the Attention of every Man, who knows, or who regards the State and Condition of his Country, to conſider what may be, and what ought to be done to prevent the Evils too plainly in Proſpect, from the inſolent Defiance given to that Power, by which hitherto we have been, by which hereafter we only can be protected and preſerved.

For the Honour of the Nation, for the Honour of thoſe principally concerned in the Oppoſition, we were generouſly willing to ſuppoſe that the Writer of the ſeveral Letters in the *Un———l Adv———r*, and another (plainly by the ſame Hand) inſcribed to Lord *Ch——d*, ſtood ſingle, without Advice, Aid, or Encouragement from any of the Heads: In fact, we conſidered him in the ridiculous Light, of a Leg only of the Party, *i. e.* ſomething pendent to the Tail, by which it moved ſometimes forward, and ſometimes retrograde; as the Reverſe of the gallant Squire in *Chevy Chaſe*, who after his Legs were ſmitten off, fought ſtill on his Stumps; as fighting on I ſay, by himſelf in a State of Separation both from Head and Body, and accordingly were diſpoſed to banter and make merry with him; but ſince we now ſee Reaſon to change our Opinion, and find from a late Experiment, that they ſtill uſe him as a Pipe to blow about the Intelligence they think neceſſary for the Amuſement of the Town and Country, we muſt change our Language alſo, and treat him not on his own Account, but on theirs, with Serioufneſs and Gravity. It were to be wiſhed indeed, that this Neceſſity had not been put upon us, the former Suppoſition was ſo much more to their

Honour,

Honour, for I am free to ſay, though I ſuſpect I ſhall offend by ſaying it, that to ſuppoſe any one either adviſes or encourages him to go on as he does; is to ſuppoſe that Man as mad as himſelf; that he has no Regard to his Country, no Reſpect to thoſe who govern it, cares not what may become of either, but would put all to hazard rather than fail of Revenge againſt two or three marked out for DESTRUCTION.

What Methods may be neceſſary to reclaim this Incendiary, and to cure his Phrenſy, our Governors alone ſhould conſider. What their own Dignity and the Kingdom's Safety may require, I am confident they neither want Wiſdom to diſcern nor Steadineſs to execute. With Regard to them, all that I have to do is to remind them of the Neceſſity there is to be vigilant and active, *Ne quid detrimenti capiat Reſpublica*; *That the Inſolence of a Tribune may not arreſt the Power of a* Dictator: And with Regard to you, the only, the beſt Service I can do you, is to ſtate fairly his Merit as a Citizen, and his Pretenſions as a Writer to Credit and Regard; to bring to your Remembrance what HE WAS, to animadvert upon what HE IS; when the Compariſon is made, and the Picture finiſhed, if he riſes in your Opinion, go on and follow him, if he ſinks, deſert and give him up.

A Writer with whom I reluctantly differ, ſays *, *He would put no Man to the Bluſh, by comparing his Writings of a former Year with this*: This Delicacy I think is too refined, and I doubt a little affected: For if it be true, as the Man himſelf in a Caſe very like his own obſerved §, *that the ſhort way to ruin an Adverſary is to make him ridiculous*: It

* Letter II. to a R——t H——le. § Antidote I. p. 6.

It will be a good Reaſon why neither of us ſhould boggle at what we cannot honeſtly deny, we both intended. If there be in the Nature of Things, one poſſible Caſe wherein the *Lex Talionis* may be conſidered as ſtill in Force, it is undoubtedly this. What he has practiſed upon others, others have a Right to practiſe upon him; without his own Aid, it is true, neither would have had it in our Power, but ſince he has given the Challenge, and provided both Arms and Ammunition, it would be rank Cowardice to decline the Combat. Neither the Fear of adding one to his Catalogue of Reverend Libellers, as he calls them, nor the repeated Threatnings of, what, A DISTINGUISHED MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF NOTED ABILITIES may do, ſhall terrify me from brightning up that Diſtinction, and rendering thoſe Abilities more noted. *Audentior Ito*, will be a third Motto, and a Subject to him of new Remarks: When the Day of our Puniſhment comes, in the Numbers he has threatned, there will be enough to make merry, and to laugh then, at the Man whom they deſpiſe now.

In the Cloſe of my laſt Letter, I beg'd my Readers would ſuſpend their Judgment of the *Adv——r* of *July* 11th, to the Return of this. I begin therefore with obſerving, that an Inſinuation more unworthy or indecent never drop'd from the Pen of any Writer, than what the whole Kingdom has probably by this Time read in that Paper. He tells you, "That though the Martyrs "were pretended to be ſacrificed to *previous Conſent*, in the Miniſterial Preliminaries of Peace, "not a ſingle Tittle of that is mentioned, nor "the Appearance of one Thought about vindicating the Pretenſions of the Maſter."

Conſider

Conſider well my Friends, I beſeech you, the Senſe and Import of this Paragraph. Here our Go——nor is repreſented as neglecting the only Article of Importance in Debate, and traiterouſly giving up the Rights of his MASTER; for what? merely he tells you, to ſcreen Delinquents. Who thoſe Delinquents are, and what they have done, will be conſidered again. Let me obſerve by the Way two Things; that tho' Men may ſee Reaſon hereafter to repent of not accepting Conditions while they could be had, yet when by too great Succeſs Men become inſolent, by greater and more obliging Conceſſions is not the Way to win them. Of this the Experience of 1641, and what followed to that unfortunate Prince *Charles* I. will ſerve to convince us, without any new Experiment: Steadineſs in the Conduct of that Prince would have ſaved him, his conſenting to the Ruin of his Miniſter brought on his own. What a proſperous Way his M——y's Affairs may probably ſoon be in, how amiable and reſpectible his Repreſentative is like to be among us, if this Repreſentation is believed and gets Credit.

There is in a Parentheſis, (intended I preſume as a Saving for this Inſult) this Expreſſion (*that they are not imputed to him who tendered them*) but in the Opinion of many who have read it, this Apology aggravates, and is worſe than the Offence. If it be true, I could almoſt be tempted to ſay, that His Ex——cy deſerves what he has got; for by this Account, what Idea can we have, or how can we conceive of him, but as a Tool, a paſſive Inſtrument in the Hands of others, of no uſe but to *preſent Preliminaries*, plan'd and prepared by abler and better Heads? How indebted are we to his Ma—ſty for ſending us ſuch a Go——

nor; one, that as the forementioned Prince told the Prussian Commissioners, who waited upon him with two limited Instructions, a common Trumpeter had served instead of and done as well.

That I neither misinterpret nor enlarge his Sense, hear him in another Place, saying this and more.

"However we are thankful to his M—sty and "his Ex——cy's Friends for sending HIM to "inspect personally the Condition of the Fortifi-"cations. But some cannot avoid thinking, that "an *experienced General, a General of Wisdom and* "*Probity*, might have saved his Ex——cy that "Trouble, and by giving himself a sufficient "Time to make a close and narrow Inspection "into the Fortifications do the Business as "well."

The intended Gibe, in the Words, We thank, is observable, but trivial in Comparison with the rest. For if I understand any thing of my native Language, the proper Construction is this: That his Ex——cy has neither EXPERIENCE, WISDOM, NOR PROBITY to qualify him to make the requisite Inspection: Or that if he had, he had not allowed himself sufficient Time for it: And *by'essed as he was by Connections, led by a Pair of Tutors at his Elbow*, carried about as a Raree-shew, and *shewn round a Province*, merely to procure *Popularity to his Conductors*, implicitly believing every Word *the Introducer General* would tell him, with neither Eyes to see nor Ears to hear, but *as the Friends of the Party* in

* All the Expressions in Italicks, are to be seen in the late Letter to Lord *Ch——field*, p. 20, 21.

in which he is incircled ſhall inſtruct him, He could not do it. Is this true? His Ex———y may pack up his Trunks, and I may tell him (as they have now currently reported he wiſhes to do) that it is time he were gone: He is not for our Turn more than theirs, and his M—ſty in Juſtice ſhould ſend us another, better qualified and better inſtructed. What Reſentment this may raiſe, I know not; but the ſofteſt Conſtruction it deſerves, is, that it is the Language of A MADMAN, and BEDLAM is the Place to which he ſhould be confined. Thouſands, I am ſure, have been taken thither and fed on Bread and Water who have leſs deſerved it. Hard Conditions, indeed! our Chief Governors hereafter muſt come under, if to humour the Pride and Squeamiſhneſs of ſome nice or haughty Stomachs, they muſt neither converſe with a Brother, receive the Reſpects of Friends, nor the Civilities of a Neighbour, without being abuſed and inſulted, and told if they do, *that the grand Enemies are ſtill in Poſſeſſion of that Favour, which they can never enjoy but at the Expence of his Majeſty's moſt faithful and loyal Subjects.* If his Majeſty has one Subject within this Realm who will ſubſcribe and approve what is here written, I will tell that Man, be he who he will, that he is neither faithful nor loyal: It is the Language of an Incendiary, the Language of a *Jacobite*, the Language of one who, by ſowing Diſcord and Confuſion among Proteſtants, would make way for the old natural Enemies of our King and Conſtitution, to invade, to oppreſs, and to trample upon us.

To proceed: How heavy does Previous Conſent lie upon his Stomach? What hideous Stuff has it made him vomit up?

" If the S——veyor G——l, he tells you, had " not fallen, Previous Conſent had not been rai- " ſed; for in Truth this was but an Inſtrument " of REVENGE for that."

In the ſame manner he ſpeaks of it in ſeveral Parts of his Letter to Lord *Cb—field*. Suppoſe, my Friends, that, like him, in Capitals, I ſhould call this A LIE, would I be miſtaken? Does not every body know that *Previous Conſent* was raiſed before the S—veyor G—l fell: The Precedent was made in 1751, and ſurely the Government could not be blameable in 1753 for following a Precedent of the C———s own making. It was not therefore an Inſtrument of Revenge for that, but I can tell him, and he knows, what it was an Inſtrument of Revenge for, and by whom taken up; it was by themſelves, in Revenge for the Diſappointment in the *A*— E—, which had it gone ſmoothly on their Side, PREVIOUS CONSENT would have paſſed as quietly in 1753 as it did in 1751, and we ſhould have heard of no falſly feigned Promiſes to excuſe it in the firſt Inſtance. This Man ſurely does not imagine, that becauſe he has loſt his Senſes, that we have alſo loſt ours, and remember nothing of what was publickly tranſacted and publickly owned a Year and a half ago.

Let me put ſome Gentlemen in mind, whom I have often heard talking pertly and ignorantly, about an Inquiry to be made, who firſt adviſed this Previous Conſent to be inſerted, that if an A— G— on t'other Side ſhould ſtand up and reply, I ADVISED IT (no impoſſible Suppoſition) they and others beſides them might perhaps find themſelves at their Wits End, and be ſadly gravel'd and nonplus'd what to anſwer.

This

This ſhameleſs Writer is diſpoſed, I find, to lay great Streſs upon the Conceſſion of a late Writer, who inadvertently, I think, has ſaid, *that the Queſtion was nugatory*: The Conceſſion, however, does not avail him; a Meaning it certainly had that was not nugatory; It gave the Crown no new Power or Prerogative, I own, but it was a Mark of that Subjection and Dependence, which this Nation ever ſince the Revolution has had upon *England*. Of the proper Dependency of *Ireland* I ſhall neceſſarily ſay ſomewhat in theſe Papers hereafter, when the Author's Senſe of the Matter ſome Years ago will be amply diſplayed; I now only obſerve, that if Gentlemen will recollect, or look over their own Acts and Journals, they will not find, I preſume, one Bill ever returned from *England*, ſince that Æra, without ſome ſuch Alteration; not, it is true, in any eſſential Part, not in the Purport of the Bill in any Enacting Clauſe, but generally in the Preamble, as a Mark of their Superiority and Power over us. This, I believe, was the acknowledged Intent of that Alteration in a Caſe that was intirely new; it was ſubſtituted in the Room of GRACIOUS INTENTIONS, a more exceptionable Phraſe, that had obtained before: In this Senſe it could do no Harm, but in this Senſe it was not nugatory: In this Senſe, probably, the C——s themſelves in 1751 underſtood it; for had it been underſtood in the Senſe it has been ſince maliciouſly repreſented, it was inexcuſable Complaiſance to fix the Precedent then; no Apology that has ſince been offered could in any Degree juſtify it, *for the Guardians of a Nation, with their Eyes open, to do a Thing that might bring Ruin upon that Nation*, as we have a thouſand times ſince been told, even a real, inſtead of a feigned

Promiſe,

Promiſe, of its not recurring, would not avail in Excuſe.

The Truth is, that the Gentlemen who conſented to it in 1751, ſaw no Harm in it then, though perhaps ſome pocketed it up as a laſt Stake to be played in an After-game; and he knows, that if any other Occaſion of acquiring Popularity and diſplaying the Importance of certain Gentlemen, had offered or come in their Way, this had never been taken up; for in Truth it was but an Inſtrument of Revenge for the galling Defeat mentioned already, by which the Stroke was loſt, intended againſt the Delinquents now told you to be ſcreened. The Imprudence of taking it up then, they have ſince, I believe, had time to recollect and repent. But ſo it is, that one Blunder in Politics ever makes way for a ſecond, and that for a third, till Reſtitution would be too late, and Men are even afraid to acknowledge their Repentance, from a Dread of that Animoſity turning upon themſelves, which they had been at ſuch Pains to raiſe againſt others.

Our Writer who is never weary of the Subject, and has ſo often ſhifted and diverſified his Language and Sentiments in his Apologies, tells you again, (Letter to Lord *Cb——l*, p. 16.) "that "*PREVIOUS CONSENT*, which for one Day "was ſaid to be given up, is *by certain Perſons* "promiſed us again."

What an impudent Forgery is this, to diſgrace our new Go—nor? If he has either Honour or Truth let him inform the Kingdom by whom this was ſaid: If he knows, he owes ſo much to the Character of his Go—nor, and to the Kingdom's Quiet,

Quiet, as to tell it out, that the Miſrepreſenter may be abaſhed and puniſhed: For I have heard, and am pretty well authorized in ſaying that it never was given up by him, nor by any one in his Name, or by his Inſtructions. Neither is it leſs Falſe, or leſs Injurious to ſay *it was promiſed again*: "He ſays by certain Perſons," who thoſe Perſons were he probably would not, if he could tell us.——If ever it was ſaid, it was by ſome of his Party, whoſe Meaning could be none other, than to impoſe upon him, and to Amuſe, Lull and Cajole others who were to be wrought up to ſome of their Purpoſes, but were to be let into none of their Secrets.

Here let me recall to the Readers Thoughts, that Teſt of Patriotiſm, quoted in a former Paper, from the Man himſelf: "That he who "makes the beſt of his Country's Condition, "and creates moſt Friends for her, is cer-"tainly her true Lover."

What then are the Men who make the worſt of her Condition, and not only create her many Enemies, but labour to make an Enemy of the Man whoſe Friendſhip ought to be of moſt account, becauſe none other Man's can be of ſo much uſe to her: Who is come here on Purpoſe to befriend her, who by Principle, by Intereſt, by Inclination, is diſpoſed to do her all the Service he may: Who has ſuch Property, ſuch Connections in it, as ſhould remove every Suſpicion of any unfriendly Deſign, and beget the ſtrongeſt Aſſurance that he will do every Thing to promote our real Intereſt that is conſiſtent with his Duty to his Sovereign, and other eſſential Obligations, which he can neither diſpenſe with nor

put

put off. But indeed, if he has neither *Experience, Wiſdom nor Probity* ſufficient for the Diſcharge of this high Truſt, as this Writer inſinuates and would have you believe, his Property or Connections, can give us little hopes, and leſs Security, that any good may be done.

In Sum, my good Countrymen, it is Time to recollect ourſelves, and to conſider where we are, and in what theſe Proceedings may probably End; even on the moſt favourable Suppoſition, that your Reſentment to certain Perſons were equal and well grounded, have you conſidered what may poſſibly be the Conſequence (for even Poſſibilities ſhould be taken in, and conſidered) of puſhing it farther? When Appeal is made, what certainty have you, that the Judgment, which muſt at laſt be Deciſive, may not turn againſt you? That others of the laſt and higheſt Importance in this Controverſy, may not conclude themſelves in Duty, and in equal return obliged, to protect thoſe, whom in no becoming Terms you have lately told us, another has propoſed to SCREEN? If they ſhould, may not the Heat and Exceſs of your own Reſentment, be plauſibly urged as a juſtifying Plea for the return of anothers? There is no certainty that others may either ſee or hear in the exact ſame Manner that you do, different Lights and Colours may raiſe different Ideas and Sentiments, and however fondly you may pleaſe yourſelves now or then, with the Propriety and Juſtneſs of your own, they may be taken in a different Senſe and Acceptation, and become the Grounds of a higher and ſtronger Reſentment, than any that has been yet conceived. There would ſeem to be ſomething in theſe Conſiderations, that deſerves your ATTENTION; if angry

gry Spirits will not brook to be told it, and no Impreſſion can be made, it is Time that every Nobleman and Gentleman in the Kingdom, ſhould ſtand up, and ſpeak for himſelf, explicitly, to declare their Senſe to their Governor, and to one another, what he is to look for, and what they reſolved to do; and not ſuffer any noiſy inconſiſtent angry Babler, to paſs any longer as the Mouth of the PEOPLE: For, if it ſhould come to be thought in *England* that theſe Principles are univerſally adapted here, that this mad Man ſpeaks the Senſe of us all, if to uſe his own Words in no very old or unſimilar Caſe *, *this ſhould prevail among Perſons who envy our Proſperity, how lamentable may be the Conſequences of a Reſentment ariſing from this Cauſe? If we preſume to wage War againſt her Sovereignty, who can ſay her Reſentment would be unjuſt? She can cruſh us to Duſt when ſhe pleaſes, ſhe has the Means in her Hands, can it be imagined, that ſhe will permit a People whom ſhe ſuſpects to be Ripe for Rebellion to grow more powerful, when they are inſolent and ungrateful now, what muſt ſhe not fear from them, if they were ſtronger? I am unwilling to mention what ſhe may do, for ſhe will be ſufficiently ingenious at finding out Expedients, to humble us if there be need.* I am no Viſionary, nor have I Powers, perhaps, of Imagination to paint the Scene, to draw into Proſpect what may be the Reſult of our Proceedings, but the Reader may find it done to his Hand in a Dream of this Writers publiſhed in 1749, at the End of his 7th Letter or *Antidote*, and thither for the preſent I refer him, and beg of him to conſider it well.

* See *Cork Surgeon*'s Letters, No. III. p. 13.

N. B.

N. B. As this remarkable Dream may not be in every Body's Hands, and it is neceſſary at this Time it ſhould, and that the Author has forbid any Copies of it to be ſold, a new Edition of it, is now in the Preſs, and will ſpeedily be Publiſhed.

FINIS.